

## Conversation Contents

Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

### "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>

**From:** "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:32:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

#### NATIONAL MONUMENTS

##### Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

Jennifer Yachnin, E&E News reporter  
Published: Friday, May 19, 2017



Opponents of Bears Ears National Monument say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has vowed to recommend rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told local Utah officials earlier this month that he will recommend rescinding Bears Ears National Monument and vowed to review public lands management more broadly, according to San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman.

President Trump ordered Zinke to review the status of dozens of monuments created since 1996, with a particular focus on the 1.35-million-acre southeastern Utah site that became the nation's newest national monument in December ([E&E News PM](#), April 26).

Local officials as well as state and congressional Republican lawmakers have urged Trump to eliminate the Bears Ears monument located in San Juan County, arguing the Obama administration failed to sufficiently take into account opposition to the designation.

During recent weeks, Zinke held multiple meetings with San Juan County officials, including a session in his Washington office and a visit to the monument earlier this month ([Greenwire](#), May 9).

Lyman, who serves as chairman of the San Juan County Commission and attended both meetings, told E&E News he urged Zinke to undo the monument, arguing that it is a hardship on the rural county to host such a "massive" site.

"We got a chance to visit with him in his office, and our message was that we'd like to see Bears Ears National Monument rescinded," Lyman said. "He said, 'Well, let me tell you what I'm thinking: Not only should that monument be rescinded, but we're not going to stop there. We need to discuss all the dysfunctionality of public land management over the last three decades.'"

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment for this article. ~~But at a news conference near Monticello, Utah, earlier this month, Zinke said national monument status may not be the "right vehicle" for Bears Ears.~~

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"The president has given me the flexibility to make a recommendation to him, and we have a lot of options," Zinke said. He has until June 10 to issue an interim report on his monument review, and until August to issue a final set of recommendations ([E&E Daily](#), May 10).

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### Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>

**From:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:39:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** "Swift, Heather" <heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov>  
**CC:** "Magallanes, Downey" <downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Bears Ears critics say Zinke told them he'll recommend repeal

How can we clarify and hit back?

Laura Keehner Rigas  
Communications Director  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
(202) 897-7022 cell  
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**Sent:** Fri May 19 2017 11:54:45 GMT-0600 (MDT)  
**To:** Laura Rigas <laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov>  
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rescinding the monument's designation. Photo by Jennifer Yachnin.

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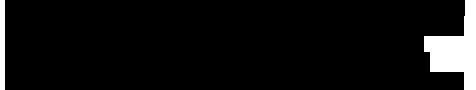
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I talked with Z. he likes this --> (b) (5)



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